

DC COMICS

THE NEW 52!

6

NIGHTWING



APR 2012

RATED **T** TEEN

**HIGGINS
BARROWS
BORGES
JOSÉ
FERREIRA**

dccomics.com

GOOD GIRL GONE BAD

AUSTIN, TEXAS

SAY WHAT
YOU WILL ABOUT
TEXAS, BUT YOU ALL
SURE KNOW HOW TO
MAKE A GUY FEEL
WELCOME.

Different month.
Different city.

Still the same
story.

GUHH!

After witnessing the deaths of his parents as a boy, Dick Grayson was taken under Batman's wing, becoming Robin, the Boy Wonder. But when the Boy Wonder became a man, he shed the identity of Robin and branded himself as...

NIGHTWING

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NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARY WOLFGAN AND GEORGE PEREZ

I've been traveling with Haly's Circus since the night Mr. Haly left it to me.

Since a hired gun named Saiko was sent after Dick Grayson because someone thinks I'm the "fiercest killer in all of Gotham."

ALTHOUGH I WAS KIND OF HOPING FOR MORE HORSES.

AND BIG HATS.

Since the same man murdered Mr. Haly over a secret in the "heart of the circus."

DEFINITELY MORE BIG HATS.

I GUESS I CAN SETTLE FOR YOURS, THOUGH.

ARGH!

There hasn't been any sign of Saiko in weeks.

And every day that goes by has me more on edge, knowing that something big is coming.

While that turned up an antique book of names, which included mine, that's not what's really bothering me right now.

FOR SOMEBODY THAT AIN'T NOthin' SPECIAL, YOU SURE DO TALK A LOT.

Something that takes advantage of the fact that he knows I'm Nightwing.

KRAK

SMASH

GHH!

Which is why I followed a lead here.

Meet Shox. It's like "Shocks" but with an X.

His spelling, not mine.

WOW. THAT JUST... WOW. THAT HURTS, SHOX.

I OFFICIALLY TAKE BACK MY COMMENT ABOUT FEELING WELCOME.

I've been hitting the crime networks in the cities we pass through, and Shox--

--is the right-hand man of Terrence Clark, a "booking agent" for contract killers in the Southwest.

Terrence also owns the club we're in.

And he must really like fish.

GOOD. 'CAUSE YOU AIN'T.

Otherwise...

...I have no idea why he would build an aquarium into his dance floor.

OH, SHOX...

KSSSSSHHH

...YOU REALLY DIDN'T THINK THIS THROUGH, DID YOU?

ARHHH!!!

ZZZT ZZZZT

MOVE, TERRENCE, GET MOV--

THUNK

"IT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION WITH A SIMPLE ANSWER. WE'LL TRY IT AGAIN."

A SHORT TIME LATER.

A CONTRACT KILLER--GOES BY THE NAME OF SAIKO. I HEAR YOU KNOW HIM. TELL ME HOW.

PREFERABLY BEFORE ALL THIS RAIN GIVES US BOTH A COLD.

I-I DON'T KNOW HIM!

COME ON, TERRENCE--PLAY THIS STRAIGHT. UNLESS, OF COURSE...

...YOU REALLY
DO LIKE SEEING
AUSTIN FROM
THIS ANGLE.

GAH...
GAHHD...

THE BOY ONLY
DID ONE JOB FOR
ME! THERE WAS...
A PHONE NUMBER...
BUT IT'S BEEN DEAD
FOR MONTHS!

HE'S OFF
GRID...SOME
SORTA *PERSONAL*
PROJECT!

WHAT?

I DON'T...
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT IS...
BUT...PULL ME UP
AND I'LL GIVE YOU
THE NUMBER I
GOT!

IT'S
YOURS!
JUST...JUST
PULL ME
UP!

ALL RIGHT,
TERRENCE...
ALL RIGHT...

*I'll trace the number,
even though I doubt
it'll go anywhere.*

*Saiko has managed
to stay in the
shadows this long,
he's probably not
going to be tripped
up by an old work
phone.*

*And if this is
some sort of
"personal" job for
him, then I've got
a whole new set
of variables to
consider.*

*Although none
of them changes
the question--*

-what is he waiting for?



AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY?

I'VE GOT IT, RAYMOND.

GOOD. THEN WE'RE IN THE HOME STRETCH.

WHAT ABOUT BRYAN HALY?

I PROMISED HE'D GET THE CIRCUS BACK ONCE DICK WAS DEAD... IF HE PUT THE TRIBUTE SHOW TOGETHER.

BRYAN WILL STAY QUIET. NOT THAT HE KNOWS ANYTHING.

SO WE'RE REALLY GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS...



HE ONLY CAME BACK BECAUSE WE LURED HIM BACK, RAYA. NOT BECAUSE HE CARES ABOUT YOU.

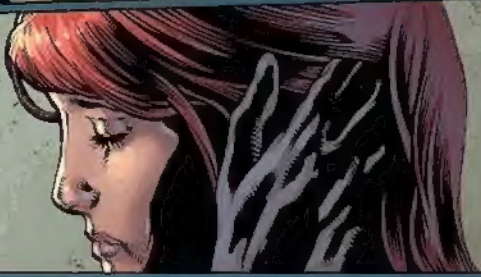
REMEMBER THAT.

OKAY.

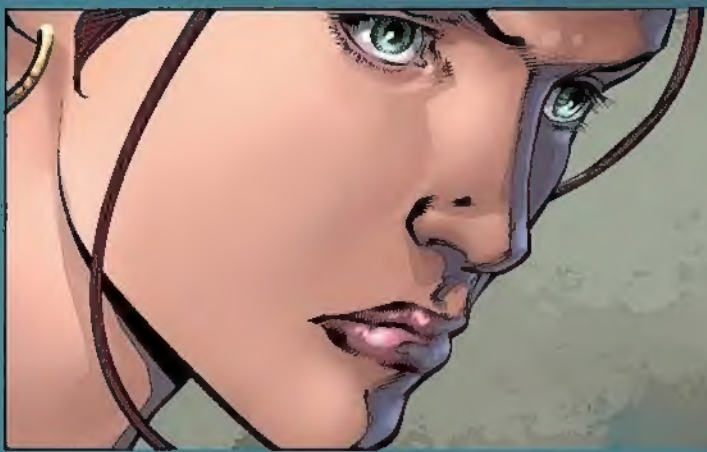


LOOK... I KNOW THIS IS HARD FOR YOU, BUT WE AGREED--DICK GRAYSON IS AS RESPONSIBLE AS ANYONE.

NOTHING HAS CHANGED.



IT'S JUST ME AND YOU, RAYA...





"...THE WAY
IT'S *ALWAYS*
BEEN."

YOU'RE
PRETTY QUIET
TONIGHT. YOU
OKAY?

HMP OH.
YEAH. SORRY...
I WAS JUST...
THINKING.

ANYTHING
GOOD?

WELL...IT'S
KIND OF ABOUT
YOUR *PARENTS*,
ACTUALLY.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT THEM
A LOT.

EVER
SINCE I CAME
BACK TO
HALY'S.

I MEAN,
THEY'RE THE ONES
WHO TAUGHT ME
TRAPEZE IN THE FIRST
PLACE. THEY ALWAYS
INCLUDED ME IN
EVERYTHING.



YOU GUYS
WERE THE CLOSEST
THING TO A *FAMILY*
I EVER HAD. THE
ONLY FAMILY I
EVER HAD.

THAT WOULD
HAVE MEANT A
LOT TO THEM
TO HEAR.

LISTEN,
DICK...THERE'S
SOMETHING I
NEED TO TELL
YOU.

BRYAN
AND I HAVE
BEEN SAVING IT
AS A SURPRISE...
BUT *NOW'S* AS
GOOD A TIME
AS ANY.

WITH NEXT
WEEK BEING THE
ANNIVERSARY OF
WHAT HAPPENED...
OF WHEN THEY
DIED...



...WE'RE NOT
GOING TO BE
WORKING OUR
WAY THROUGH
THE REST OF
TEXAS.

WE
DECIDED TO GO
BACK TO GOTHAM
AND DO A SHOW
IN THE FLYING
GRAYSONS'
MEMORY.



THE FLYING
GRAYSONS
Tribute Show

BRYAN ACTUALLY SET MOST OF IT UP...THE VENUE... PROGRAMMING...HE EVEN TRACKED DOWN OLD POSTERS THAT DIDN'T BURN UP IN THE WAREHOUSE FIRE.

BUT... WHY?

BECAUSE WE ALL THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THEIR **LIVES**, DICK...INSTEAD OF MOURNING THEIR **DEATHS**.

WE WANT TO DO THIS.

And just like that... it hits me.

HOW MANY PEOPLE **KNOW** ABOUT THIS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW?

WELL, THAT'S KIND OF THE **POINT** OF A SURPRISE...

The reason Saiko hasn't come after me again.

He's been waiting for a big enough stage.

"YOU'RE **INSANE**, GRAYSON."

LATER.

I KNOW
HOW IT
SOUNDS,
JIMMY...



...BUT THE
TIMING ISN'T
RIGHT.

IT'S THE
ANNIVERSARY.

WHICH
IS WHAT I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT.

I MEAN, THE
POLICE STILL HAVE
NO IDEA WHO
BURNED DOWN THE
WAREHOUSE, MUCH
LESS WHO **KILLED**
MR. HALY.

WHAT IF
WHOEVER IT WAS
HAS BEEN WAITING
TO GO AFTER
SOMETHING
BIGGER?



YOU JUST
WANT
THE
CIRCUS TO DIE,
DON'T YOU,
DICK?



I MEAN, WHY ELSE WOULD YOU
CANCEL THE MOST HIGH PROFILE
SHOW WE'VE HAD IN **YEARS**, WHEN
IT'S A STRUGGLE TO EVEN GET
PEOPLE TO NOTICE WE'RE
STILL AROUND?

BRYAN,
THIS HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH--

YOU MAY "OWN"
HALY'S, DICK, BUT
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
WE'RE GOING TO LET
YOU DRIVE US INTO
THE GROUND.



HIRE WHATEVER
EXTRA SECURITY
YOU WANT, BUT
THIS TRIBUTE IS
HAPPENING--

"--WHETHER YOU
SHOW UP IN GOTHAM
OR NOT."

13
GOTHAM CITY.

A man in a suit and tie is driving a car at night. He is looking towards the passenger seat. The car's interior is dimly lit, with light coming from the windows and the dashboard. The background shows a city street at night with buildings and streetlights.

YOU
CALLED IT IN,
DETECTIVE
BROOK?

THE REST OF
MAJOR CRIMES IS
COMING DOWN NOW.
DISCREETLY.

GOOD.

A man in a suit and tie is sitting in the driver's seat of a car. He is looking out the window. The car's interior is dimly lit, with light coming from the windows and the dashboard. The background shows a city street at night with buildings and streetlights.

TRAVIS...YOU
SURE TWO GANG-
BANGERS ARE
REALLY WORTH
THE TIME?

A close-up of a man's face. He is looking down at a handgun that he is holding. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

YEAH...

A close-up of a handgun. The barrel is pointed towards the right. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

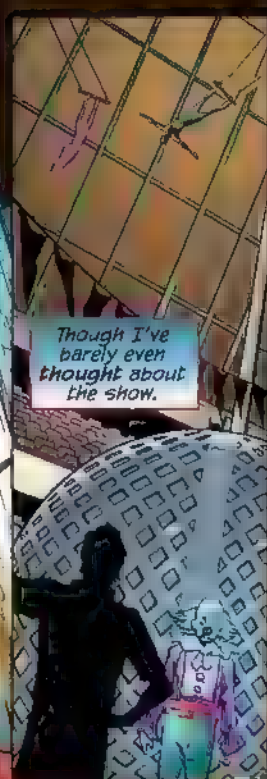
...I'M PRETTY
SURE.

Three days later
and we're back in
Gotham, rehearsing.

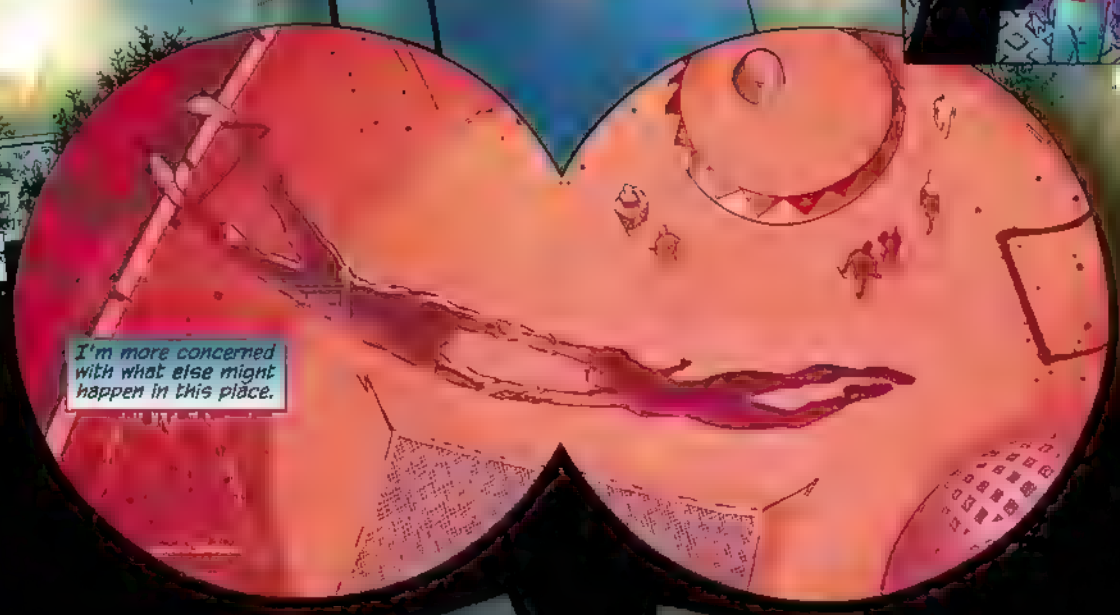
THE FLYING GRAYSONS Tribute Show



Though I've
barely even
thought about
the show.



I'm more concerned
with what else might
happen in this place.



If Saiko is going
to attack, this is the
best tactical spot in
the building.

It's where I
would come
in.



MOTION
SENSOR UPLINKS
SUCCESSFUL

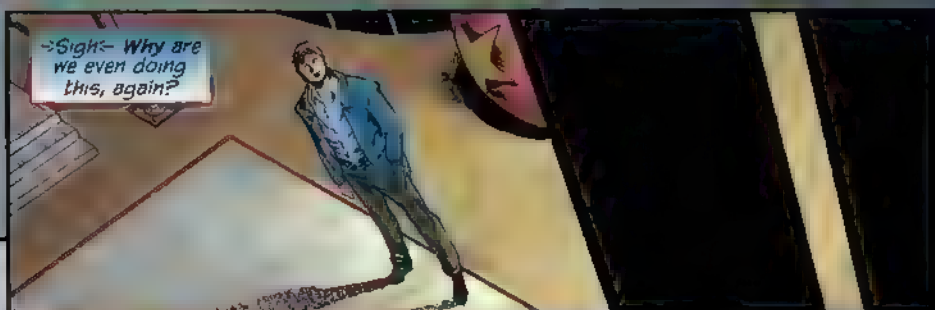




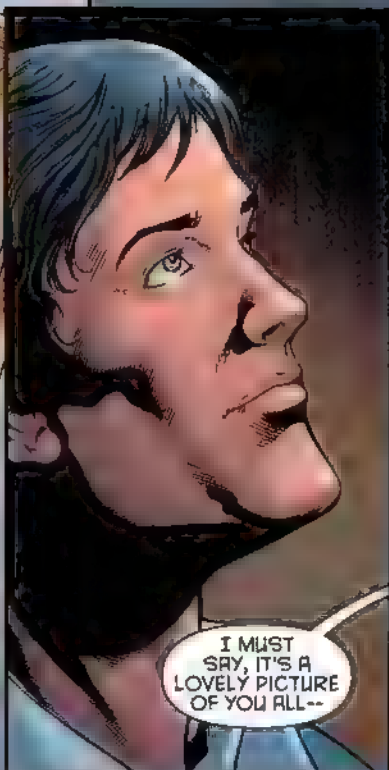
But even with motion sensors and extra security, there's going to be thousands of people here.

And the place is huge.

So much that can go wrong.



-Sigh- Why are we even doing this, again?



I MUST SAY, IT'S A LOVELY PICTURE OF YOU ALL--

--MASTER RICHARD.

ALFRED!

THEY DRAGGED YOU OUT FOR THIS THING, TOO?

"DRAGGED" IS FAR FROM THE PROPER WORD, SIR. THOUGH I REGRET I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY FOR THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.

WITH MASTER BRUCE STILL MISSING, I SHOULD BE NEARBY IN CASE HE RETURNS, NEEDING ASSISTANCE.*

THAT'S WHY WE LOVE YOU, ALFIE-- ALWAYS THERE WHEN WE NEED YOU.

*BATMAN #4 AND #5
--BOBBIE

AND HOW ABOUT YOU, RICHARD? HOW ARE YOU FEELING IN THE HOURS BEFORE THE PROVERBIAL CURTAIN LIFTS?

TERRIBLE. THIS PLACE IS SO BIG, IT'S LOGISTICALLY A NIGHTMARE TO SECURE.

THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

I'VE GOT EXTRA SECURITY COMING IN, BUT--

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

I UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR PRECAUTION...

...I ONLY HOPE THAT IN TAKING THESE EXTRA MEASURES TO PROTECT THE SHOW, YOU'RE NOT TAKING EXTRA MEASURES TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM EXPERIENCING IT.

HUH. WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU REALLY THINK...

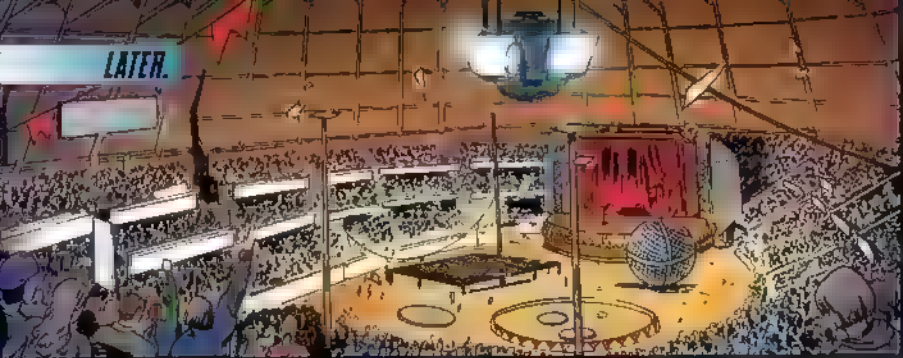
I THINK THIS IS YOUR FAMILY'S NIGHT, RICHARD, AND THE LAST TIME I CHECKED YOU'RE A PART OF THAT.

IT'S OKAY TO ENJOY THE EVENING. IN FACT, I'M CERTAIN THEY WOULD WANT YOU TO.

AS THE SHOW GETS CLOSER, DO TRY TO REMEMBER THAT.

THANKS, ALFRED. I'LL TRY.

LATER.



YOU CAN TEXT LATER. NOW IT'S TIME FOR SPEECHES.



WAIT, WHAT?



GO!

OKAY, THIS IS... SORRY, I WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING TO... AHM.



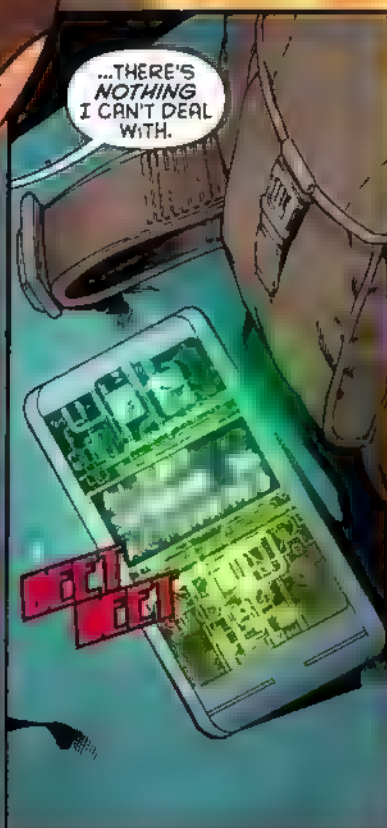
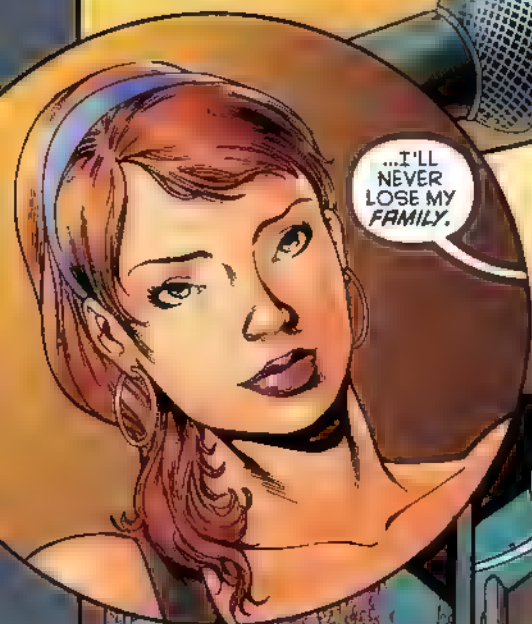
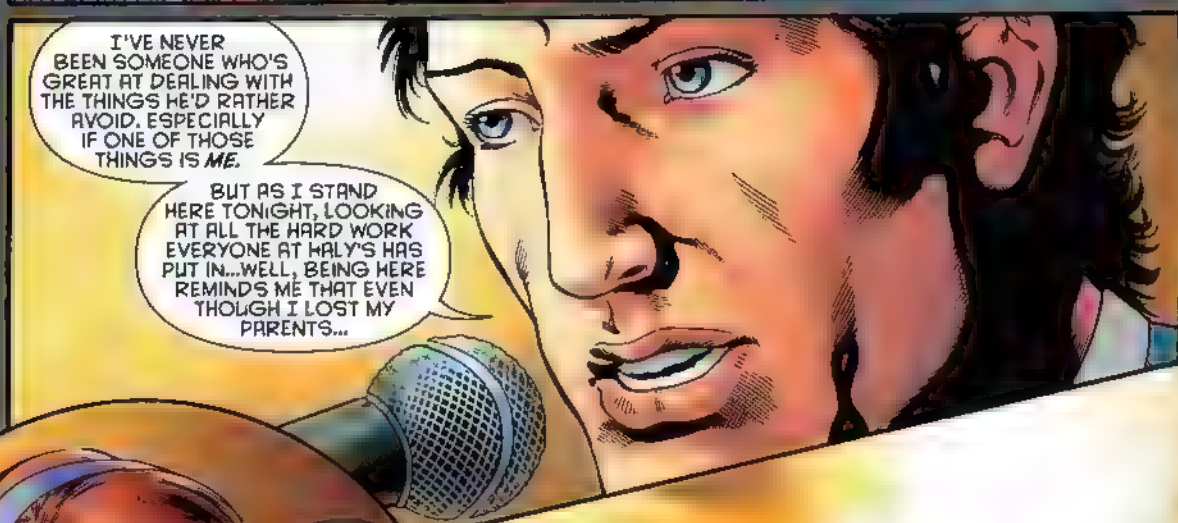
CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP





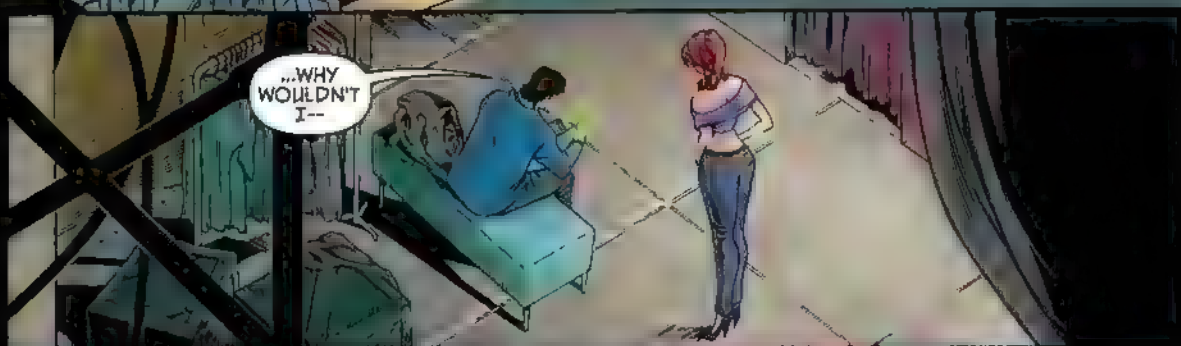
DID YOU MEAN THAT?

WHAT?

WHAT YOU JUST SAID--ABOUT US ALL BEING FAMILY...DID YOU MEAN IT?

OF COURSE I MEANT IT...

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP



...WHY WOULDN'T I--



WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

It's him. It has to be.

Stupid, Grayson...

he's already here.

SEEMS ONLY FITTING THAT IT END IN THE SAME PLACE IT STARTED...

...WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, DICK?

SAIKO!

IT'S BEEN BUILDING TO THIS, AFTER ALL--THE NIGHT THAT EVERYTHING CHANGED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT--

--SOMETHING IS GOING TO CHANGE TONIGHT!

ARGH!





COME ON THEN--
WE'LL TAKE IT
OUTSIDE. JUST
YOU AND ME.



HA! YOU *STILL*
DON'T GET IT?
I GUESS I
SHOULDN'T BE
SURPRISED.

YOU'RE
ONLY
SUPPOSED
TO BE THE
FIERCEST
KILLER.

NOBODY SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
THE GREATEST
DETECTIVE.



RAYMOND...?!
BUT YOU--



DIED?
EXACTLY,
DICK... I WAS
YOUR FRIEND,
FAMILY
EVEN--



--AND YOU
KILLED
ME.

KER-
SNAP



UNHI!

THEY CAME
FROM THE SHADOWS
AND TOOK ME,
DICK...THEY KIDNAPPED
ME...TORTURED ME...
THEY RUINED
ME.

THEY TURNED
ME INTO
THIS.

AND IT'S
YOUR...

...AND THIS
GODFORSAKEN
PLACE'S FAULT.

TNK



NO!

KA-BOOM



NEXT ISSUE:

DICK GRAYSON'S LEGACY!

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M

EMPIRE

